

To account for the removal of the security detail and the tact units and to comment on the other allegations of official complicity, the committee has called Mr. Frank Holloman. Mr. Holloman, as director of fire and safety in Memphis in April 1968, was the official with ultimate responsibility for the removal of Detective Redditt. In addition, he is the accountable official for all of the actions of the Memphis Police Department.

A retired FBI agent, Mr. Holloman once served in the office of Director J. Edgar Hoover. He has served as Special Agent in Charge of FBI Field Offices in Jackson, Miss., Atlanta, and Cincinnati. He left the FBI in 1946 to practice law in Laurel, Miss.

Mr. Holloman rejoined the FBI in 1948 and subsequently served in Louisville, Los Angeles, and at FBI Headquarters in Washington. In 1959 he was assigned to the Memphis field office, where he remained until his retirement from the FBI in 1964.

Mr. Holloman was director of the development for Memphis State University from 1964 to 1966, and executive director of the Mid-South Medical Center Council for Comprehensive Health Planning until January 1, 1968.

Mr. Holloman served as director of fire and safety in the city of Memphis from 1968 through 1970. He is presently executive director of Future Memphis, Inc.

It would be appropriate at this time, Mr. Chairman, to call Mr. Holloman.

Chairman STOKES. The committee calls Mr. Holloman.

Do you solemnly swear the testimony you will give before this committee is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I do.

TESTIMONY OF MR. FRANK C. HOLLOMAN, FORMER DIRECTOR
OF FIRE AND SAFETY, MEMPHIS, TENN.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you. You may be seated. The Chair recognizes counsel for the committee, Mr. Mark Speiser.

Mr. SPEISER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Holloman, I welcome you to Washington.

You have had the opportunity to hear our chief counsel, Mr. Blakey, briefly allude to your career with the FBI. I would like to ask you some more penetrating questions about your career with the Bureau and begin with that area of questioning on this point. Would you state for the record what

is. I am led to believe that you are a lawyer by training. Is that accurate?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. When did you first join the FBI?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. June of 1937.

Mr. SPEISER. While with the Bureau, did you succeed to positions of a supervisory nature?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Isn't it a fact that you were appointed agent in charge of the Chicago office?
Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Can you recall that you were assigned to field where you served as the SAC,

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. This is from far as specific dates are concerned Jackson, Miss., in 1943. I was there for about three months. Then I was transferred to Memphis in 1943, 1944, and then I was transferred to Birmingham in 1945, and I resigned from the charge at the Cincinnati office. I was agent in charge of the FBI, I was agent in charge of the office in Birmingham, Ala. I went there in August of 1946 or March, or the spring of 1960.

Mr. SPEISER. What are the ge field office?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. He is the in office and has general overall office, its operations, and those

Mr. SPEISER. Who within the FBI was able to? Was it Mr. Hoover? At 1

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I would say ye
Mr. SPEISER. Did there come
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the FBI?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Can you elaborate
Mr. HOLLOMAN. I was inspect
Washington going back now from
until August of 1959.

Mr. SPEISER. For a period of 7 years of Mr. Hoover's office. What an incumbent with that position?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I supervised the office of the office itself, and I also reviewed that went into his office, except completely to his secretary, his executive charge of people seeing Mr. Holloman, advising him as to who he was talking to.

Mr. SPEISER. This lasted for a
Mr. HOLLOMAN. Seven years, yet
Mr. SPEISER. How were you select
Mr. HOLLOMAN. He selected me

Mr. SPEISER. Prior to being selected as agent in charge of several divisions of the FBI.

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Mr. Holloman,
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Mr. SPEISER. Isn't it a fact that there came a time when you were appointed agent in charge of certain field offices of the FBI?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Can you recapitulate for the committee the dates that you were assigned to field offices and the offices themselves where you served as the SAC, that is, the special agent in charge?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. This is from memory and I will be inaccurate as far as specific dates are concerned. But I was agent in charge in Jackson, Miss., in 1943. I was there for a very short time, several months. Then I was transferred to Atlanta, Ga., and was there in 1943, 1944, and then I was transferred to Cincinnati probably in 1945, and I resigned from the FBI in 1946 while I was agent in charge of the Cincinnati office. After that, when I went back to the FBI, I was agent in charge of the Memphis office for a few months. I went there in August of 1960 and was agent in charge until March of the spring of 1960.

Mr. SPEISER. What are the general functions of a SAC of an FBI field office?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. He is the individual who is in charge of the office and has general overall administrative supervision of the office, its operations, and those who are assigned to it.

Mr. SPEISER. Who within the Bureau were you directly reportable to? Was it Mr. Hoover? At least while you were serving in the FBI.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I would say yes. Yes.

Mr. SPEISER. Did there come a time when you in fact became very close professionally with Mr. Hoover during your career with the FBI?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Can you elaborate on that, please?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I was inspector in charge of his office here in Washington going back now from 1959—I believe from about 1952 until August of 1959.

Mr. SPEISER. For a period of 7 years you were inspector in charge of Mr. Hoover's office. What are the duties and responsibilities incumbent with that position?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I supervised the clerical employees in the office. I was the only agent in the office and I was the general supervisor of the office itself, and I also reviewed the memoranda, documents that went into his office, except correspondence which went directly to his secretary, his executive secretary, and I generally was in charge of people seeing Mr. Hoover; making appointments, and advising him as to who he was to see or who wished to see him.

Mr. SPEISER. This lasted for a period of approximately 7 years?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Seven years, yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. How were you selected for that position?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. He selected me. It was just a selection on his part.

Mr. SPEISER. Prior to being selected to that position, you had served as agent in charge of several field offices?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Before that, I was in Washington in a supervisory position in what was then called the crime records section or division of the FBI.

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Mr. FAUNTROY. And your recollection is that it never occurred to you to do that?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is my recollection that it did not occur to me at that time to do it, myself. I was depending upon the commanding officer of the police department to do what was necessary under the circumstances.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. McKinney.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Holloman, my colleague from Connecticut and my colleague from Washington have covered most of these points, but I want to clarify two basic things that bother me.

One of the reasons this committee sits here spending the taxpayers' money is because a great many people have written that there was either a conspiracy or complicity on the part of the Memphis Police Department and the FBI in the assassination of Martin Luther King.

I remember, though it was 10 years ago, the municipal strike in Memphis as a really rare occurrence. Municipal employees didn't make a daily habit of going out on strike 10 years ago. What even made it more incredible was that it was a Black against white, and it was basically the poor against the city establishment, and it was a daily subject of conversation in the eastern press, making the headlines.

You sat with J. Edgar Hoover, and I understand from your testimony that you interpreted his jottings on memorandum and so on to make sure they were carried out; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I have had the experience on this committee of reading many of Mr. Hoover's jottings, and his jottings for not even making a telephone call were northern Siberia. Yet here you had a police department that totally failed to function when a national leader was killed. You stayed on until November of 1970, and nobody was demoted, fired, removed or anything else. Why?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. As I have already testified, I cannot explain that, sir. I would say that it was a dereliction on my part that I didn't.

I would like to say that in the first part of your comments regarding the activities of the committee, that Mark Lane has made the allegation or made the original allegation that the conspiracy evolved itself around the fact that I removed Detective Redditt from the security detail. I heard Detective Redditt's testimony over the radio this morning in which he stated that he had nothing whatsoever to do with the security.

Mr. MCKINNEY. All right, I worked very hard this morning eliciting from Detective Redditt that he was never really on a security detail except when he presumed he was on at the airport, that he was in fact a Black officer hired essentially to report, to the police department the activities of those surrounding Martin Luther King, those of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and those surrounding the sanitation strike. But what I am trying to say, Mr. Holloman, is that we have to somehow or other on this committee make a decision as to what happened.